TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The Times-Virginian is delighted at the start made here last night in briefing local business people on the dollar value of tourist visitors at Appomattox. This is potentially a million dollar a year business here. Mr. Jerry Miller, distributive education instructor at the Appomattox High School, took the lead in organizing a Tourist Trade Clinic, which was held last evening at the school. It is our hope that next spring a larger Clinic can be held, over a course of several class sessions. The start has been made. It is a start in the direction of interesting local business personnel in seeing that the stay of visitors is prolonged and that there be that quality of courtesy and hospitality to make their visit to Historic Appomattox memorable.

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THE SENATE BALANCE

The death of Senator Alben Barkley, Kentucky Democrat, can make the slim Democratic voting edge even more precarious than it has been recently. Governor A. B. Chandler, a Democrat, is able to maintain the precarious Democratic position by the appointment of a Democrat in Barkley's place.

Even before Barkley's death, one hot race was developing in Kentucky. Thurston B. Morton, former Congressman, is credited with an edge in the race for the G. O. P. senatorial nomination, which would pit him against Senator Earle Clements. Clements, in turn, has opposition from Representative Joe Bates, backed by Governor A. B. Chandler.

Republicans would like to see Morton defeat either Clements or Bates and, perhaps, have John Sherman Cooper, former Senator, move into the picture and run for the seat formerly held by Barkley. In this way, the Republicans would have a chance to pick up two seats in the Senate, where one switch would now wipe out the Democratic majority in that body.

These reports, coupled with the rumor that Administration sources are eager to get former New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey into the race for the U. S. Senate seat now held by Senator Herbert Lehman, New York Democrat, indicate that the question of control of the Senate might be a closer one than many Democrats had expected, especially in Kentucky and New York.

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A FARM PROBLEM SOLUTION

The one sure-shot, equitable, support-price solution to the present plight of today's farmers has been largely overlooked by Congress. It is the suggestion that Congress provide for 100 per cent price supports, for the farmer with small acres, and then lesser supports for larger and larger numbers of acres.

In other words, for the small farmer who plants only five acres of a certain crop, he would receive one hundred per cent parity price support from the Government, if he followed the Government's acreage allotment program. On his next five acres—taking five as an example—he might receive ninety per cent parity price support, and so on.

In this way, the total planting of a certain crop would easily be controlled, since supports for the larger farmers would not make it profitable for him to over-produce or for him to take advantage of the Agriculture Department's price support operations to the tune of fifty or one hundred thousand dollars, as many big farmers have done in recent years. This program, however, would allow the little farmer to maintain himself, and his family, and stay in operation. Whereas, the little farmer would not surer the loss of his livelihood, the large farmer might have to diversify, or might even have to put a few hundred acres into the Soil Bank program.

We have no objection to the Soil Bank program for the larger farmer but, in itself, we can't see how it would be of benefit to the small farmer. And the small farmer is the backbone of rural America.

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THE DISARMAMENT SETBACK

After several promising developments in recent weeks, the East and West have recessed disarmament talks in London, and it is thought they will not be resumed for at least six months.

This is discouraging, since it means that the arms race will probably continue—in some form—for the next six months. Delegates from five nations participated in the U. N. disarmament talks, and most of them agreed there was no point in continuing the talks in London at the present time.

Altogether, the delegates from the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Canada, have held more than eighty meetings in the last thirty-six months, and progress has been very slow.

At the most recent sessions of the disarmament group, Russia made several concessions. First, she agreed to go along mith the idea of ground control. She refued, however, to go along with President Eisenhower's proposal that aerial inspection teams keep watch over armament programs in all countries.

One of the most significant angle of the recent talks is the fact that Russia bandoned her argument that all nuclear weapons be immediately banned. That would include production of nuclear weapons.

U. S. observers took this reversal of position on the part of the Russions to mean that the Communists no longer felt that the United States maintained an edge over them in the nuclear weapons field.

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AIR FORCE MUST BE BEEFED UP

General Curtis LeMay's stinging testimony before a Senate investigating group can be divided into two parts.

First, LeMay makes it clear that the Russians are outstripping us in the race for air supremecy and that the Russian lead is growing larger, month by month.

Secondly, LeMay indicates that U. S. production and technical efficiency has not been what it should have been in recent months and years. For example, he noted that of four B-52 heavy jet bombers built in this country in February only two have been accepted by the Air Force.

Moreover, he said that none of six produced in March and none of five produced in April have been accepted. They were not up to standard because of undisclosed reasons.

LeMay noted that the Air Force had accepted 41 of 57 heavy jet bombers produced prior to January. While he did say as much, it seems reasonably certain that these figures refer to total U. S. strength in the heavy jet bomber field, since the heavies were delivered to the Air Force, for the first time, last year.

Testimony such as that of LeMay, head of the Strategic Air Command, could not be franker, and should serve as a warning that the defense of this great nation needs overhauling.

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Congress is enacting a 51-billion dollar road building program, covering the next thirteen years. We know we can do the job. We have given away 51 billions in foreign aid in the last nine.

Washington Notes

BLINDNESS UP

An estimated 27,000 Americans lost their eyesight last year, bringing to 334,000 the number of sightless persons in the United States, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness reports. Glaucoma and cataract were cited as the major blinding diseases into which research is necessary.

JULY DRAFT

The Selective Service will draft 13,000 men during July for the Army. This figure is 1,000 higher than the number requested for May and June. The other services do not intend to draft any men during July.

CAR OUTPUT

During the week of April 30-May 4th, the nation's auto production sank to the lowest level of the year, when a total of 116,165 cars were built. This was 8.7 per cent below the production of the week before. Truck production during the same week was estimated at 22,290, compared with 21,954 for the week before.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

This year's Democratic National Convention is expected to draw more people than in 1952. Chester A. Wilkins, executive director of the Chicago Convention Bureau, reported that, to May 1st, 11,825 rooms had been reserved in forty-six hotels for convention participants. This compares with 9,760 rooms used in 1952.

UNEXPENDED FUNDS

An estimated $6,600,000,000 in unexpended funds from previous appropriations for foreign aid programs is available to the Administration, according to Senator Harry F. Byrd. If Congress grants President Eisenhower's request for additional funds for foreign aid, it would mean the Administration would have $11,500,000 available for the program, according to Mr. Byrd.

MINE DEATHS UP

Roof falls in coal mines caused 27 per cent more deaths during the first three months of 1956 than in the corresponding months of 1955. Bureau statistics showed there were 121 coal mine fatalities in the first quarter of 1956, compared to 115 a year ago.

U. S. EMPLOYEES

In a U. S. employee survey, it was found that the Washington area furnished the largest number of employees, with 227,465. New York City and adjacent New Jersey furnished the second largest number of resident Federal employees. A total of 195,873 Federal workers lived there. The San Francisco-Oakland area is third with 83,066, Philadelphia fourth with 73,070, and Chicago fifth with 69,251.

NATION'S ECONOMY

The nation's economy continued robust in the first quarter of the present year, carrying over from the prosperous late months of 1955, according to the Commerce Department. While a department survey, covering January to March, noted a leveling-off, the economy remained at a high plane. The chief weak spots were in the motor vehicle and residential construction industries.

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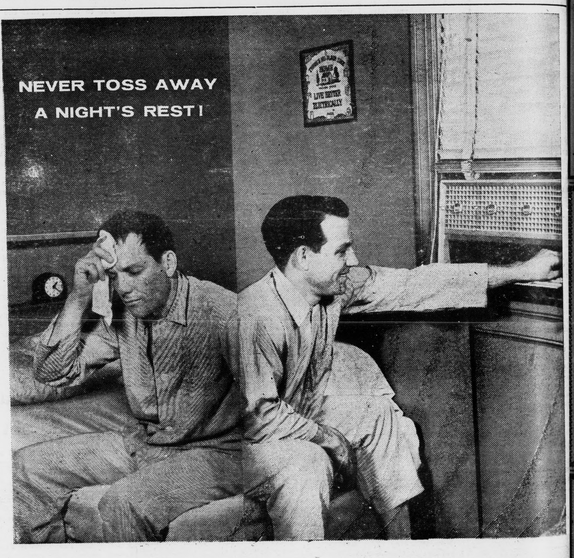

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Home Agent's Notes

By Mrs. B. G. Anderson
Home Demonstration Agent

The time is drawing near when we will again be preserving the vegetables and fruits from our gardens and orchards. I would like to give some information to you readers to help you in freezing foods that will taste even better than they have before. Mr. J. D. Winter, of the Frozen Food Research at the University of Minnesota Experiment Station has given the following information.

Freezing food successfully isn't a matter of luck. Two things are necessary: Top quality food and strictly following the rules.

Food stored at zero or lower keeps its flavor, texture and color better than food stored above zero. The fact that food is frozen solid isn't enough to insure good flavor. The temperature at which it is frozen makes a difference also in the quality retained. Beef and pork held at zero degrees fahrenheit tastes far better than when stored at ten degrees Fahrenheit. Strawberries and green beans held at three below were much better after ten months than those that are stored at twelve above.

Freezers vary from 7 to 9 degrees in inside temperatures. This means you should set the controls below zero (unless your controls are already factory set) so that the warmest spot registers zero. (Test with a freezer thermometer).

To cut down operating costs put your freezer in the coolest convenient place.

Flash freezing of most foods isn't so important. As a matter of fact, it is better for fruits packaged in sugar to freeze rather slowly so the sugar will penetrate the fruit. But you should get all foods down as far as 40 degrees quickly to halt growth of spoilage organisms. When the thermostat registers 10 degrees, food will freeze quickly enough to be safe. Some partly thawed meat can be re-frozen without loss of flavor unless it has thawed to a temperature above 40 degrees when meat may start to spoil. Rib roast and steak can be re-frozen without change in taste. The meat may darken and look less attractive but the taste will not be changed. Ground beef and light meat of turkey may also be re-frozen satisfactorily.

Ground pork and dark turkey meat will lose its flavor if re-frozen and most fruits and vegetables will have poorer texture. Re-frozen ground food cannot be "poisonous" unless thawed at temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit until harmful spoilage develops. Spoilage will develop more quickly, however, in foods which have been thawed at high temperatures. Vegetables are best if frozen just as soon as you can get them into the house from the garden; but fruits should be held until just right for eating.

Peaches and strawberries keep their best color, flavor and texture when frozen in glass jars. Glass jars keep out air and prevent any loss of moisture. You can get wide mouth jars especially for freezing and use them year after year. Or, today, you can buy canned goods, such as mayonnaise, peanut butter, pickles, etc., in wide-mouth jars which are designed for re-use as freezer containers.

Most froozen food containers on the market today do a good job for the homemaker.

Strawberries have best flavor if sliced before freezing.

Peaches are equally good sliced, or canned in halves.

It's best to add sugar to fruit before freezing to retard the loss of Vitamin C to help keep good color.

Aluminum foil, cellophane bags, and other transparent films made for frozen foods are very good wrapping materials. Those that can be made to hug the food tightly are especially good because they prevent air pockets. A single wrap of good material is much better protection for frozen foods than a double wrap of ordinary waxed locker paper.

Bread tastes fresher if frozen promptly, stored at zero degrees fahrenheit and defrosted rapily. If you store it for a few weeks, a bakery wrap will do, but for longer storage, use a polyethylene bag.

Don't overcook potatoes or macaroni (or any food for that matter) before freezing. In fact, it's best to undercook them a bit, especially for casserole dishes.

A final word of warning: Freezing is not a miracle process. Your frozen product will be no better than the product you freeze, so if you want to make the best use of your freezer, freeze only foods at their highest quality.

Collect The Supplies You'll Need

Using the right supplies means your freezing is more likely to be successful; keeping all of them together makes freezing easier. Your check-list of wrappings and packaging materials will include: heavy duty aluminum foil; laminated locker paper; transparent films; cellophane bags, twist-tight closures; flexible plastic containers; waxed cartons; glass freezer - canner jars; freezer tape; metal closure lids.

Some other utensils you will want to assemble are: scalding (blanching) kettle, strainer, scoop, funnel, tongs, stainless steel paring knife, household scales, cherry pitter, measuring cups and spoons, and a brush or pencil for marking the packages.

As Yet

A New York bank will now serve tea on Mondays from four to six. As yet adjoining restaurants have made no plans to make loans to their customers. —Christian Science Monitor.

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NEWS from HOLLYWOOD

Bette Davis is said to be so pleased with her Columbia film, "Storm Center," she has agreed to make a twenty-city tour by air to promote the picture, starting late in May. This is the first time Betty has ever done this for any picture.

Well, Guys and Gals, Tony Curtis has changed his hair-do—not voluntarily, however. In Paris, for "Trapeze," in which Tony co-stars with Gina Lollobrigida, and Burt Lancaster, Tony was shown the trapeze on which he was to work and was asked one question: Do you think you'll want long hair when you're swinging by your heels up there?" Tony didn't think he would and so now he has become cleanly bristle-topped, and says he intends to stay that way.

Tab Hunter is one wise young Hollywood actor. He takes only $35 a week from his business manager. The rest of what Tab makes goes into the bank.

The little 12-year-old, Carole Ann Campbell, who played Lillian Roth as a 12-year-old, has been signed by Walt Disney for the feminine lead in his new TV series, "The Hardy Boys," in which she plays a tomboy involved with teenage boys in a modern-day treasure hunt. "The Hardy Boys" will be seen in twenty episodes on the Mickey Mouse Club.

The sudden death of the veteran actor, Edward Arnold, at 66, brought grief not only to his friends and co-workers in filmdom, but to thousands of others who knew him through the medium of his unending service to his fellowman, particularly to young people. Just 12 days prior to his death, the Edward Arnold Chapter of the San Fernando Youth Foundation was dedicated at Encino.

Tony Martin and Marcel Hellman are scheduled to appear in Allied Artists' musical comedy, "Jeannie," with Vera Ellen. Filming is expected to start about the middle of June.

Around Your Home

By Frances Dell

Any gardener who thinks soil is an inert mixture of sand, silt, stones, clay and organic matter, will never produce outstanding blooms in a large variety of garden plants. This gardener may grow nice phlox or iris or cydonias, but it would be impossible for him to be successful with all three unless he prepared the soil correctly for each different plant.

The average garden soil is composed of elements that plants do not need or cannot use. The greater portion is made up of silicon, aluminum and iron. In regions where rainfall has been abundant over the past thousand years, most of the elements needed by plants have been washed away. It is necessary for the gardener to replace these materials. Commercial plant food is the answer.

By Frances Dell

Sometimes it is necessary to change the texture of soil. You may have to alter a heavy soil, or change a sandy soil to one that is porous and spongy.

Correct preparation of the soil is the first and most important step toward a successful garden. This preparation includes providing good drainage and mixing the necessary materials into the soil.

The ideal way to prepare soil for the garden is to start one year before you plan to plant. The preplanting preparation in regions of plentiful rainfall and for all but acid-loving plants, involves adding ground limestone, spading, liming again and applying commercial plant food. This is followed by sowing a cover crop, like rye or oats in the fall and a legume in the spring.

This looking ahead will reward you many times over.

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